from all directions and specially from the southern most tip, if so, whether Government propose to set up Army, Air and Naval bases in the Southern region of Tamil Nadu deploying and stationing thereby heavy forces of the three commands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Government have no inputs to suggest any threat to the security of the country.

Government keep a constant watch on all developments that have a bearing on national security and take timely appropriate steps to ensure effective defence preparedness.

Stoppage of Payment of dues to Small Entrepreneurs by C.S.D.

4071. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Canteen Stores Depot has stopped payment of dues to small scale entrepreneurs as a matter of routine;

(b) if so, what protection Government propose to give to such entrepreneurs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present management of C.S.D. is taking steps to harm those units which have less than Rs. 10 lakh as turnover; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to appoint an Enquiry Committee for removing all aberrations which have crept into the functioning of C.S.D. recently and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) As per the standard contractual agreement of the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) with its suppliers, all unsold and slow-moving stocks, for which there is little or no demand, are required to be taken back by the suppliers and an amount equivalent to the cost (plus 10 per cent as transportation/handling charges) of such stores, deposited with the C.S.D. Payments for such unsold/slow moving stores from all such firms, which may include small scale units have been withheld, for being adjusted against the amounts due to be deposited with the C.S.D. As there is no attempt to take any step to harm the small scale industrial sector, the question of appointing an Enquiry Committee does not arise.

Supply of Boots and Shoes to Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur

4072. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence forces authorities have been reluctant to place their orders for supply of boots and shoes to Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur and other Central Government Undertakings in pursuance of the recent policy of liberalisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the authorities are counting upon such supplies from private sector industries;

(c) whether the standard of quality is not taken into consideration, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the details of supplies/orders made from Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur and other Central Government Undertakings together with private sectors during the past three years alongwith the number of pairs value-wise; and

(e) what protective measures are likely to be taken to utilise the maximum available capacities of both Ordnance Equipment Factory and Central Government Undertakings

for catering the needs of armed forces for such shoes|boots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) All stores are purchased after strict inspection of quality specifications|standards.

(d) The details of orders placed for boots and shoes are as under:—

		OEF/PSUs	Private sector (through DGS&D)
90-91	Qty ordered	4,00,000	26395
	Value	Rs. 7.32 Cr.	Rs. 45.12 lakh
91-92	Qty ordered	5,43,525	1,43,525
	Value	Rs. 10.04 Cr.	Rs. 1.91 Cr.
92-93	Qty ordered	4,00,000	1,845
	Value	Rs. 11.75 Cr.	Rs. 2.65 lakh

(e) After booking the capacity of the Ordnance Equipment Factory, orders are placed on PSUs for the balance quantities, on the basis of guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises regarding purchases from PSUs. Only if they are unable to accept the order for any reason, the procurement is made through DGS&D.

Plight of CSD Canteen Employees

4073. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Deputy Director General Canteen Services Army HQ, New Delhi had issued instructions to OC Units for the retrenchment of the Civilian canteen employees;

(b) if so, whether the services of the CSD canteen employees of Kharga, Ambala, Pune Sub Area etc. were terminated illegally and fresh employees appointed on contract basis;

(c) whether Government are aware of the news item which appeared in daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' of 27th September, 1992 under the caption 'Raksha Mantralaya Ki Canteen men Civilian Karmchariyon Ki Sthiti Bahut Dayniya Hai'; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to stop the prevalance of the bonded labour system in Defence Canteens and to mitigate the sufferings of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Unit Run Canteens (U.R.Cs.) are retail outlets for sale of consumer goods to Defence personnel and other entitled categories. These U.R.Cs. are owned and controlled by the Units|Formations of the Armed Forces, run under their private Regimental arrangements, out of their own funds. The Government has no jurisdiction over the U.R.Cs. The terms and conditions of service of the employees of the U.R.C. are determined by the managements of the U.S.Cs. concerned and may vary from case to case.

A letter was issued by the Deputy Director General, Canteen Services, Army HQrs, on 10-12-1990, making a suggestion to all the Command Headquarters, to consider issuing instructions to their Formations|Units to